END POLICE TERROR! DEFEND BLACK LIVES!

STRUGGLE * LA LUCHA for Socialism por el Socialismo

Struggle-La-Lucha.org

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The Six Grandfathers before it was defaced. v detende ace off against Trump

On July 3, more than a hundred Indigenous and allied land defenders stood for hours and blocked a South Dakota highway leading to Mount Rushmore in advance of a scheduled speech and rally by President Donald Trump at the U.S. national monument carved into stolen land. Led largely by Lakota and other Native youth, the heroic defenders faced off against police in riot gear in front of them.

By M. Tiahui

The treaty defenders parked white vans across the road to ensure the road would stay blocked for some time even after they were arrested. They later removed the wheels, climbed on top of the vans, and shouted, "Land back!" Several were arrested. Through it all, they also were confronted by rabid Trump supporters who were angry that they were not able to get through to attend the rally.

Nick Tilson of the NDN Collective said the group had "reclaimed the road," which is on stolen treaty land. "We don't need them to give us permission to do this on our land."

Krystal Two Bulls said, "We need to be bringing out the roots of what we're talking about. This country was founded on white supremacy," including the genocide of Native people and slave labor of Black people.

Trump's rally in the Black Hills was a direct attack on Lakota and other Indigenous people who hold the area sacred and hold clear treaty rights to the area, just as his visit to Tulsa, Okla., near the Juneteenth holiday was a clear attack on Black people.

Mount Rushmore — known as the Six Grandfathers — is part of the sacred Black Hills. The U.S. has refused to honor treaties for the area since gold was discovered there in 1874 by an Army expedition led by Gen. George Custer. Uranium was later discovered and mined by corporations.

In the 20th century, the Six Grandfathers were defaced when the Mount Rushmore monument to white supremacy was created by a Klu Klux Klan member. Two of the presidents carved into the mountain were slave owners (Jefferson and Washington), another (Lincoln) approved the hanging of 40 Native men in the largest mass execution in U.S. history, and the last (Theodore Roosevelt) was an imperialist and staunch believer in white racial superiority. All four presidents held anti-Native and other racist views.

Indigenous

land defenders

blockade highway to

Mount Rushmore, July 3.

The treaty defenders demanded that Mount Rushmore be removed and the Black Hills returned to the Lakota. In advance of Trump's rally, Oglala Lakota tribal chair Bear Runner publicly said that the people did not give permission for Trump to enter into the Black Hills.

> Like many other Native people, Bear Runner believes that Mount Rushmore needs to come down. "I don't believe it should be blown up, because it would cause more damage to the land. But there are other methods to take down the monument that would have less environmental impact."

Black Hills defense.



PHOTOS: INDIAN COUNTRY

LANTA COMMUNIT

Return the Rayshard Brooks memorial'

By Lizz Toledo

On June 12, 2020, Rayshard Brooks was murdered by officers of the Atlanta Police Department at the Wendy's drive-through on University Avenue. Many community members witnessed the murder and were traumatized by the sight of Brooks, a Black man and father, being shot in the back, kicked while he was down and his body stood on by a police officer as he lay dying.

This happened in a poor, working-class, Black community that has witnessed and experienced the brutality of the APD for years. This time, the community decided to take control of this sacred space as a liberated zone for justice, grieving and community control.

On July 6, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms and the Atlanta police violently stole this liberated space from the community and destroyed Rayshard Brooks' memorial. Bottoms' excuse was the tragic nearby shooting death of 8-year-old Secoriea Turner, a tragedy that the mayor and cops falsely blamed on armed community defenders guarding the memorial site.

Bottoms' cruelty has no bounds. After a powerful march on July 11 initiated by Community Movement Builders demanded that the city return control of the site to the community, the mayor ordered the complete tearing down of the Wendy's where Rayshard Brooks was murdered.

On July 14, members of the community watched as bulldozers and other equipment leveled the site to the ground. People were crying and begging them to stop.

We are still demanding that the city give us back this space so we can turn it into a community center, in Rayshard Brooks' honor. This site was already well on the way to becoming a place of community solidarity and support. Each time I visited I saw food and water distribution, games and activities for young children, education activities for older youth, masks, snacks and a community space that felt safer to us and our children than any other space in Atlanta.

We want it back. Community control now!

A petition issued by the Atlanta Peoples Power Assembly demands:

- 1. Return the community property, including posters, flowers and other donations, that were stolen from the Rayshard Brooks memorial.
 - 2. Return to the community the Wendy's site and Continued on page 2

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Border wall threatens Kumeyaay Nation burial sites

By Zola Fish

Members of the Kumeyaay Nation gathered in Boulevard, Calif., on June 30 to halt the building of Donald Trump's border wall. The Army Corps of Engineers has been using dynamite to blast an existing wall which is located on sacred burial sites of the Kumeyaay ancestors. Indigenous artifacts and bones have been found at the blasting site.

Many of the hundreds of protesters were members of the Kumeyaay Original Peoples Alliance. Additionally, members of the American Indian Movement, Warriors of Awareness, the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee and Black Lives Matter were in attendance, along with allies from other organizations. Marchers chanted, "We didn't cross the border! The border crossed us!"

According to the organizer, Cyn Parada from the La Posta band of Kumeyaay, "Customs and Border Patrol [CBP] has not worked in good faith to permit monitors."

The Kumeyaay are native to both San Diego County and Northern Baja California. The border wall divides their tribal lands. The Kumeyaay are now divided into bands all over the east and north county sections of

The blasting was stopped for the day, but will continue. Cyn Parada explained that the demonstration was meant to draw attention to the



PHOTO: BORBY WALLACE

scheduled construction, which she said is just one example of a project that did not do enough to safeguard the ancestral lands of local tribes.

Blue Eagle Vigil, a member of the Viejas band of Kumeyaay, said, "We're sick and tired of not being at the table when our ancestors are being dug up."

"Our ancestors fought for us and died for us," Parada said. "It's time for us to start saving that history and passing it on to our children, instead of just watching it get desecrated."

Border Patrol officials said they are working to reschedule the blasting.

The actions are continuing. Another protest was held at the blasting site on July 3, and a march was held in downtown San Diego on July 5.

This reporter has seen construction trucks still going up the road to the wall. The colonizers want their monument to racism, even if it means desecrating an ancient people's culture.

Trump's wall is a monument to white supremacy. It's a monument to himself. Walls are about racism and xenophobia. The border wall is to remind Latinx people they are not welcomed in the U.S.

For Native Americans, the U.S./ Mexico border is an imaginary line. The traditional homelands of 36 federally recognized tribes, including the Kumeyaay, Pai, Cocopah, O'odham, Yaqui, Apache and Kickapoo peoples, were split in two by the 1848 treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the 1853 Gadsden Purchase, which carved modern day California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas out of northern Mexico.

Colonial powers claim Indigenous lands as their own. It takes a lot of arrogance for the colonizers to stand on stolen land and complain about immigration. This is Indigenous land and it's time to take it back.

Zola Fish is a member of the Choctaw Nation.

Dismantle Now! Black & Indigenous solidarity march







By Struggle-La Lucha

On July 8, multiple Boston-area Indigenous, Black and Afro-Brazilian groups held a rally and march demanding police abolition, the immediate removal of symbols of white supremacy, and investment in the economic development and self-determination of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People Of Color).

Speakers called for the permanent removal of the hated Christopher Columbus statue at Boston's waterfront and for the renaming of Faneuil Hall, named after a slaveholder and slave trader. Many at the rally called for structural change in Boston and elsewhere to address white supremacy and for an end to police brutality and disproportionately high death rates in Black and Indigenous communities.

After marching to City Hall, speakers demanded that Boston's mayor and City Council honor Indigenous Peoples' Day instead of Columbus Day. Mahtowin Munro, spokesper-

son for IndigenousPeoplesDayMA. org and United American Indians of New England (UAINE), said: "It is time for everyone to acknowledge that this is a stolen land in a nation built by stolen peoples.

"We wish to express our solidarity with movements for Black Lives and against police violence. Our people have also been on the streets here and elsewhere to support those demands, because of our centuries of ties with our Black relations and because our Native communities also suffer a disproportionate impact from police violence," Munro explained.

"Politicians and others who now say they want to work for racial justice need to ensure that Indigenous voices and perspectives are included in the work, not erased or silenced."

A Palestinian speaker drew many parallels between what is happening in the U.S. and in Palestine, where Zionists continue to brutally oppress Palestinians and steal their land, with a recent annexation of a large portion of the West Bank and further incursions in East Jerusalem. Several speakers demanded an end to capitalism and colonialism.

Taíno and Afro-Brazilian ceremo-

nies, dance and music. The Boston march strengthened the bonds between the communities here and was one of many Black and Indige-In addition to speakers, there were nous solidarity actions taking place around the U.S. in recent weeks.

ATLANTA COMMUNITY:

'Return the Rayshard Brooks memorial'

Continued from page 1

surrounding area where Rayshard Brooks was murdered

by the APD, as a healing and liberated zone.

Police hands off!

Sign the petition: tinyurl.com/y4bbc9u3 The PPA also urges people to call, email and fax these demands to: Councilwoman Joyce Sheperd: (404) 330-6053 Fax: (404) 739-9255 Email: jmsheperd@atlantaga.gov

Mayor Kiesha Lance Bottoms Mayor's office phone: (404) 330-6100 Office of Constituent Services Phone: (404) 330-6023



To get involved, you can connect with the Atlanta Peoples Power Assembly on Facebook, by phone at (678) 603-6959, or by email at atlantapeoplespowerassembly2@gmail.com

Black-Indigenous solidarity beats NFL 'Slurskins'

By John Parker

Recent events expose that a qualitative change has occurred in this period of history. Marxist social science explains how real changes — those capable of empowering our entire working class and tipping the balance of power toward us — come from the actions of our class.

To illustrate this, just consider the rapid changes that have occurred in the last two months, since the police murder of George Floyd — from cops being charged in Minneapolis, to the proposed dismantling of the city's police force while other cities are considering the same; the toppling of racist statues, from confederates and slave owners to genocidal colonialists and imperialists, from Gen. Lee to the horror of the Congo, King Leopold of Belgium.

The "slow wheels" of justice even sped up in the Supreme Court with victories regarding Indigenous sovereignty and abolishing one type of discrimination against LGBTQ2S workers. IBM felt compelled to join in by ceasing the sale of its facial recognition software to police departments for mass surveillance and racial profiling.

And now, after decades of Indigenous protests, the National Football League team in Washington, D.C., announced July 13 that it would drop the racist name "R*dsk*ns" and all associated logos.

All of this is a result of the militance and defiance that the Minneapolis Black community inspired when they courageously took on a terrorist military force in their neighborhoods — the police — and even burned down a precinct.

The movement they inspired went around the world. The people's will-ingness to risk life and limb unarmed against the militarized defenders of the ruling class scared the hell out of the bosses — so now they are on the defensive and willing to grant some reforms, and their corporate entities and political puppets are responding in kind

In fact, although Washington team owner Dan Snyder had vowed to never change the name, he reversed his position in mid-July when major corporate sponsors like FedEx and Amazon threatened to pull their association with the team.

Here's what Snyder told USA Today back in 2013: "We'll never change the name, it's that simple. NEVER — you can use caps."

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan also reversed his longstanding support for the name and now suddenly sees the light, recognizing, he said, that the name is a racial slur that should be changed.

Capitalist collusion

There had been tremendous pressure from on high to keep the name, most recently coming from President Donald Trump, but also backed up by unscientific opinion polls conducted by the Washington Post. These polls were largely responded to by white fans of the Washington team, as Indigenous people pointed out repeatedly. The Washington Post

colluded with Dan Snyder for years to make it appear that the team name was acceptable to Native people.

However, recently a more thorough, larger and more scientific survey was done by the University of California, Berkeley, and published in the Journal of Social Psychological and Personality Science. The study of 1,000 Native Americans found 49 percent were offended by the name. However, for those who actively engaged in their Native or tribal cultures, the number rose to 67 percent. And for young people it was 60 percent.

Arianne Eason, a UC
Berkeley assistant professor of psychology, and Stephanie Fryberg, a
University of Michigan psychologist, launched the study last fall.
Eason said: "We keep seeing clear examples of Native people speaking up and protesting these problematic team names and mascots. Yet, public opinion polls, with little methodological transparency, say that Native people are not offended. Things just don't add up."

"The data from previous opinion polls is often used to silence Native people," said Fryberg, a member of the Tulalip Tribe in Washington state.

Eason and Fryberg's study is estimated to be the largest scale investigation to date of the relationship between Native American identity and attitudes towards Native mascots.

"Ultimately, our study demonstrates that people who identify most with being Native American are the ones most likely to feel harmed by the continued use of stereotypical Native American team names and mascots," Eason said.

"This suggests that the debate over the continued use of Native mascots should be more closely attuned to Native American voices, particularly the voices of those who are most highly identified."

This brings up a very important lesson for the movement, because another justification for keeping the name, even coming from so-called progressives, is that the name was sometimes used by Indigenous peoples themselves. So, we should disregard what Indigenous people are saying now about using the name for a sports team?

As a Black person writing this article, I feel compelled to offer another scenario. Imagine a sports team using the N-word with the justification that some Black people also use that word?

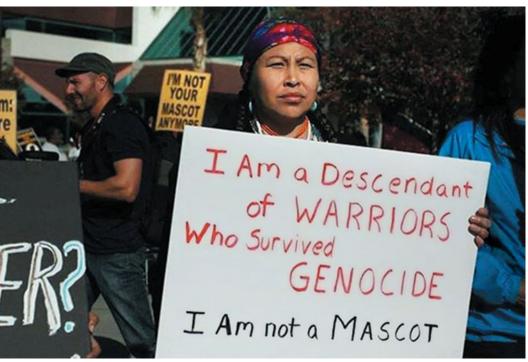


PHOTO: NOT YOUR MASCOTS

You don't build unity in our movement by denying the present and historic realities of racism that oppressed peoples are expressing opposition to.

Racist history of team name

"Hail to the R*dsk*ns

Hail victory!

A 2016 Washington Post article exposes the racist history of the 87-year-old team name, starting with the lyrics that then-owner George Marshall commissioned his wife to write in 1937, when the team moved to Washington. They are offensive and presented here to simply illustrate the racist beginnings that accompany that name:

Braves on the warpath
Scalp 'um, swamp 'um — We will
Take 'um big score.
Read 'um, weep 'um, touchdown,
We want heap more.
Fight on, Fight on, 'til you have won,
Sons of Wash-ing-ton.
Rah! Rah!
Hail to the R*dsk*ns.
Hail victory!
Braves on the warpath

It took 30 years for those lyrics to just be modified.

Fight for old D.C."

It's ironic that the racist use of "scalping" in the song implies the use of merciless violence by Indigenous peoples. It was, in fact, one of the methods of merciless genocide against Indigenous peoples used by the colonizers, with scalping widely used to verify kills.

Mahtowin Munro of United American Indians of New England told Struggle-La Lucha: "White settlers for centuries routinely put bounties on the heads of Indigenous people,

although plenty of them did this for fun and sport. Those who scalped Native people were paid different rates depending on whether the person scalped was a man, woman or child.

"The scalps were often referred to as 'red-skins," Munro explained. "This is why it is so despicable that the Washington team clung to that name for so long. We often call them the 'Slurskins."

In 2015, Indian Country Today exposed a news story dated Oct. 9, 1885, that speaks to Munro's points.

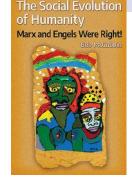
The article reports: "The clip, published by the Atchison Daily Champion in Atchison, Kan., tells of settlers in Arizona fanning out across the state to 'hunt for redskins, with a view of obtaining their scalps.' Scalps taken from the bodies of dead Indians were valued at \$250, according to the report."

It's not surprising then that, according to the aforementioned Washington Post article, Marshall, under pressure from the Kennedy White House, became the last owner to integrate his team in 1961. The team chose Ernie Davis, an African American Heisman Trophy recipient, in the NFL draft — but traded him just 10 days later.

This victory of the long-awaited name change was made possible by the relentless struggle waged by Indigenous activists, who met with team presidents, filed petitions and waged protests all across the U.S.

Those voices were amplified by the recent demonstrations protesting the killing of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery, which screamed from the streets that the oppressed will no longer tolerate racism and will fight it by any means.

All of this also exposes the power coming from the solidarity of Black, Brown and Indigenous peoples fighting this system..



Paperback or Kindle tinyurl.com/vwarcv7

The Social Evolution of Humanity

Marx and Engels were right! Bob McCubbin

This study augments Frederick Engels' 'Origin of the Family, Private Property & the State,' focusing on social/sexual relations, in particular, the changing social status of women.

McCubbin is the author of 'Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View.' First published in 1976, during the first flush of the modern LGBTQ2S movement, McCubbin's unparalleled achievement was to offer a historical analysis of when, where, why and how LGBTQ2S oppression developed.

Black voter suppression near 1950s level

By Gary Wilson

The Supreme Court unanimously ruled July 6 that states can penalize members of the Electoral College who do not support the winner of their state's popular vote in a presidential election.

The court's ruling is in response to the 2016 presidential election, when 10 electors voted for someone other than their state's chosen candidate, highlighting how electors have the potential to swing an election. The ruling does not in any way change the Electoral College system.

The U.S. does not have direct elections for the president of the republic, though direct elections are considered to be the norm for a bourgeois democracy. The ability to vote directly is synonymous with democratic rights; the inability synonymous with denial of rights. The Electoral College system, borrowed from the Roman slave empire's constitution some 2,000 years ago, gives only a semblance of voting rights, keeping real power in the hands of the wealthy few.

Indirect elections, through the Electoral College, increase the power of the wealthy.

In the 2000 election, George W. Bush lost the popular vote but won in the Electoral College. The same happened again with Donald Trump, who lost the popular vote in 2016 by almost 3 million votes — over 2 percent — but won the indirect Electoral College vote.

The 2020 election campaigns of the Democrats and Republicans have almost exclusively focused on winning the Electoral College vote, particularly in what are called "battleground states."

Court gutted Voting Rights Act

The Supreme Court has already gutted the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The court's 2013 Shelby v. Holder ruling eliminated federal oversight of state election and voting laws.

According to the Brennan Center for Justice: "The decision in Shelby County opened the floodgates to laws restricting voting throughout the United States. The effects were immediate. Within 24 hours of the ruling, Texas announced that it would implement a strict photo ID law. Two other states, Mississippi and Alabama, also began to enforce photo ID laws that had previously been barred because of federal preclearance."

In July 2017, in Georgia, 600,000 people, some 8 percent of the state's registered voters, were purged from the rolls and required to re-register — an estimated 107,000 of them



The 1963 March on Washington.

simply because they hadn't voted in recent elections. In 2018, the state blocked the registration of 53,000 state residents, 70 percent of whom were African American.

Voter ID laws and other restrictions that fall most heavily on African American and Latinx people have been initiated in a number of other states, not all in the South. Polling locations have been closed, early voting restricted and registration rules made stricter.

Black voter suppression in this country has returned to near 1950s levels.

Constitution gave power to slaveholders

In 1787, the Constitution was adopted to insure that the executive power was always held by the slave-holding class. Of the first 10 presidents of the U.S., only two, John Adams and John Quincy Adams, were not slave owners.

In writing on the Electoral College's racist origins, Yale constitutional law professor Akhil Reed Amar says:

"If the system's pro-slavery tilt was not overwhelmingly obvious when the Constitution was ratified, it quickly became so. For 32 of the Constitution's first 36 years, a white slaveholding Virginian occupied the presidency.

"Southerner Thomas Jefferson, for example, won the election of 1800-01 against Northerner John Adams in a race where the slavery-skew of the Electoral College was the decisive margin of victory: without the extra Electoral College votes generated by slavery, the mostly southern states that supported Jefferson would not have sufficed to give him a majority. As pointed observers remarked at the time, Thomas Jefferson metaphorically rode into the executive mansion on the backs of slaves." ("The Troubling Reason the Electoral College Exists" by Akhil Reed Amar, Time, Nov. 8, 2016)

More than two centuries after it was designed to empower a slavocracy, the system continues to suppress the Black vote and empower the wealthy.

Voting in 1787 was restricted to white male adult property owners, about 6 percent of the population. In the early 1800s, the property requirement was gradually changed to paying taxes so that by 1857, all white male taxpayers were allowed to vote. Citizenship was not required until 1928, following an anti-socialist, anti-immigrant campaign that led to the illegal deportation of 1.8 million people.

The Reconstruction-era 15th Amendment states that voting rights cannot be denied or abridged based on "race, color or previous condition of servitude." And briefly, voting rights were opened to African Americans. Disfranchisement came after the defeat of Reconstruction, with Jim Crow laws effectively keeping voting limited to white male taxpayers.

The segregation and disenfranchisement laws known as "Jim Crow" represented a formal, codified system of racial apartheid that dominated the U.S. in the North as well as the South for three quarters of a century beginning in the 1890s.

Great struggles were waged in the following years and over time more democratic rights were won, particularly the right to vote. After a mass women's movement for suffrage, women's right to vote was won in 1920, with the 19th Amendment to

the Constitution.

In 1964, the 24th Amendment prohibited the requirement to pay poll taxes in order to vote. Not until the historic Civil Rights movement won the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was a nationwide "one person, one vote" electoral system established in the U.S., with the exception of prisoners.

6 million denied right to vote

According to the Sentencing Project, as of 2010 an estimated 6 million people in this country were denied the right to vote because of a felony conviction, a number equivalent to 2.5 percent of the U.S. voting-age population. That number is certainly higher today. Given the racist justice system, these 6 million are predominantly from Black and Brown communities.

So the 1965 Voting Rights Act was functionally broken by the Supreme Court in 2013.

As the late Civil Rights leader Rep. John Lewis said this year on June 25, the anniversary day of the Supreme Court's Shelby v. Holder decision: "The record is clear. A rampant war is being waged against minorities' voting rights in my home state of Georgia and across the nation."

Lewis has introduced a resolution for a Right to Vote Amendment to the Constitution, as the right to vote is still not guaranteed. The amendment includes a provision to stop any attempts to restrict voting rights.

This year's elections have already seen widespread denial of voting rights. In fact, the Trump campaign and the Republican National Committee have mounted an aggressive national effort to suppress voting rights, which they call "voter fraud." It's an in-your-face racist maneuver. Without a fight, the Black vote will be suppressed.

The Black Lives Matter movement has put a spotlight on the institutionalized racism governing this country. The electoral system is part of that. There's more than statues that need to be toppled.

tinyurl.com/vn3qvn5

BLACK AUGUST 1619-2019

commemorates 400 years of Black freedom struggle.

This book examines the construction of a racial capitalist venture — slavery — where the histories of African, Native and working people overlapped.

- Matsemela-Ali Odom * Gloria Verdieu
- Carl Muhammad
 Zola Fish
 Mary Lou Finley
- Dennis Childs
 Eusi Kwayana
 Mumia Abu-Jamal
- Curtis Howard
 Sylvia Cameron Telafaro

Millions face eviction while banks grab billions

By Stephen Millies

Alvin Kinnard was jailed for nearly 36 years in Alabama for allegedly stealing \$50.75 from a bakery. His real crime was being Black and poor.

Kinnard was 22 years old when he was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. This was done under the state's "three strikes and out" law. He was 58 when he was released on Aug. 30, 2019, after that fascist act had been slightly modified.

Banks steal the real dough, billions of it. The Wall Street Journal reported on July 8 that JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America will collect up to \$2.6 billion in fees for administering the coronavirus emergency aid program for small businesses.

Four thousand legal loan sharks (aka financial institutions) will divvy up as much as \$24.6 billion in fees. That's 484 million times what Alvin Kinnard supposedly took from a bakery.

Banksters love fees. Just in order to get a mortgage, you have to pay a loan origination fee, a discount fee and a processing fee. That's on top of the interest that has to be forked over every month.

In 2016, the three biggest U.S. banks — the already mentioned JP-Morgan Chase and Bank of America, as well as Wells Fargo — grabbed over \$6.4 billion from ATM and overdraft fees. The rest of the banks collected many billions more. That's a real stickup.

Foreclosures are a bigger crime. Nearly 7.8 million families in the United States had their homes stolen by banks between 2007 and 2016.



Big banks profit from fracking and pipelines that threaten the environment and Indigenous sovereignty. Pictured, water protectors blockade a Wells Fargo bank in Duluth, Minn., in 2017.

Wells Fargo was the biggest thief in Baltimore. Half of the bank's foreclosures there were in neighborhoods that were at least 80 percent African American. That's because 65 percent of its Black customers had high-interest-rate loans compared to only 15 percent of its white customers.

The Wells Fargo criminal syndicate created 3.5 million phony bank and credit card accounts in order to filch fees from unsuspecting customers. Now it's being rewarded by the feds with over a half-billion dollars in fees.

Looming epidemic of evictions and shut-offs

The Wall Street Journal claims that administering these small business loans is really expensive and that the "biggest banks" will donate their profits. Maybe the tooth fairy also exists.

Meanwhile, nearly seven million families could face eviction across the U.S. Many state moratoriums on evictions and utility shut-offs are scheduled to end soon.

The U.S. capitalist economy was falling into crisis even before COVID-19 struck. Forty-four million workers filed for unemployment compensation between March and June.

Yet the \$600 weekly federal supplemental unemployment benefit is set to expire at the end of July. Without it, many families won't be able to pay their rent or mortgage.

Andy Puzder, the former CEO of CKE Restaurants, doesn't want the \$600 supplemental benefit to be renewed. Puzder exploited tens of thousands of low-paid workers at

his Carl's Jr. and Hardee's fast food chains. Both youths and seniors were his biggest victims.

Puzder actually wrote that people aren't applying for jobs because the \$600 benefit was too high. He's really confessing that wages are too low.

Trump nominated Puzder to be U.S. labor secretary, but even the Senate balked at the hamburger mogul. This creep who thinks unemployed workers are lazy is also a union-hating sexist pig whose specialty was commercials featuring scantily clad women.

"I like our ads," Puzder told Entrepreneur magazine. "I like beautiful women eating burgers in bikinis. I think it's very American."

Abolish rents and jails!

Jean Valjean — the fictional hero of Victor Hugo's novel "Les Misérables" — was sent to jail for stealing bread to feed his sister's starving family. But he spent much less time in jail than Alvin Kinnard did.

The biggest crimes are committed not in the streets but in the business suites. Donald Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, is a billionaire slumlord who terrorizes tenants at his Baltimore-area properties.

People are fighting evictions across the U.S. Car caravans have been organized coast to coast, often linking the demands of abolishing rents along with freeing prisoners. The jails are COVID-19 death traps.

The Black Lives Matter movement has energized millions. Only by continuing to struggle will supplemental unemployment benefits be renewed and evictions, foreclosures and utility shut-offs be stopped.

Philadelphia protest: Free Mumia! Free them all!

By Stephen Millies

Over 500 people came to Philadelphia's City Hall on July 4 to demand that Mumia Abu-Jamal be freed. It was the largest action inside Philadelphia for the imprisoned revolutionary Black writer in years.

Every July 4th, demonstrations are held for Mumia Abu-Jamal, who helped found Philadelphia's chapter of the Black Panther Party when he was 15 years old. That's because just before July 4, 1982, Abu-Jamal was falsely convicted and sentenced to death for the killing of policeman Daniel Faulkner.

After a long struggle, authorities were forced to take Abu-Jamal off death row in 2011.

Supporters gathered across from City Hall where the statue of Frank Rizzo used to stand. Rizzo was a fascist mayor during the 1970s and police commissioner in the 1960s who told his fellow bigots to "vote white."

Rizzo also threatened Abu-Jamal at a news conference. The recent removal of Rizzo's statue was a victory earned by struggle.

Pam Africa, the leader of the International Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal, started the rally. She demanded "Free them all!"

All the political prisoners, like Leonard Peltier, a leader of the American Indian Movement who has been imprisoned for over 40 years, and Black liberation fighter Mutulu Shakur have to come home. So do hundreds of thousands of other prisoners whose real crime was being poor.

Mumia speaks

The rally was joined by a hundred people led by Red Fists Rising, who marched from the 30th Street train station. A Red Fists Rising member, an eight-year-old girl, helped lead chants.

Speakers reminded people they were standing on Indigenous land that was stolen.

Saudia Durrant, from the Philadelphia Student Union, spoke of how 350 cops in Philadelphia's schools cost \$30 million per year. This money could be used to hire hundreds of needed school nurses and counselors.

People marched around to the south side of City Hall, and rallied in front of the statue of Octavius Catto, the Black school principal and political leader who was murdered by racists on election day, Oct. 10, 1871.

Then Mumia Abu-Jamal called in from prison and spoke to the rally. He quoted Frederick Douglass: "Power concedes nothing without a demand."

"This is a special time," said Mumia, referring to the millions of people in the streets demanding that Black lives matter. "I love you all.



Pam Africa



SLL PHOTOS: STEPHEN MILLIES
Philadelphia on July 4.

"I think I will be with you. We will meet in the whirlwind," said Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Pam Africa, who is also the minister of confrontation of the MOVE organization, wound up the rally. She said that 2020 is the year when the last of the MOVE 9 political prisoners got out of jail.

The power structure said they would never be released. But, as Pam Africa said, "We made liars of them."

The power of the people that tore down Rizzo's statue will free Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners.

Baltimore marches against mass incarceration Speakers call U.S. 'the prison house of nations'

By Andre Powell

Baltimore residents spoke out against mass incarceration on July 4. Baltimore was one of many cities responding to the call of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (NAARPR) to use the holiday to raise the issue of mass incarceration across this country.

The march was the latest in a series sponsored by the Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly since the police murder of George Floyd. The march and car caravan gathered at the Harriet Tubman Solidarity Center just north of downtown. As in previous weeks, the route of the caravan took participants through some of the poorest neighborhoods, where the police occupation is heaviest.

Before the march stepped off, the crowd listened to a recording of noted actor James Earl Jones reading a portion of Frederick Douglass' speech given on July 5, 1852, titled "What to a Slave Is the Fourth of July?" The march then proceeded through East Baltimore as it headed toward the prison complex which sits between a public housing development and a major highway and serves as a barrier between poor neighborhoods and the downtown business area.

Upon reaching the prison complex, protesters stopped to give a solidarity message to those behind



SLL PHOTO: RASIKA RUWANPATHIRANA

the walls. These solidarity speeches are done every time a march goes through the complex to let the inmates know they are not forgotten. The inmates can always be heard responding to the chants and the speeches, shouting back, "Thank you!" During earlier marches calling for their protection from COVID-19, many inmates were heard pleading, "Help us!"

The protesters then marched through the prison complex, surrounding it on all sides. When they reached the exit of the Central Booking building, where arrestees are held before seeing a commissioner who sets bail or releases them until trial date, they stopped and held a speakout.

The speakout began with remarks noting how laws passed in the U.S. Congress three decades ago have now resulted in the astronomical number of people in prison today, overwhelmingly from Black and Latinx communities. The sentences given are much harsher and longer than before. Speakers called the U.S. "the prison house of nations."

Marilyn Barnes was one of several speakers who addressed the crowd. Her son Marlyn died in April 2019 under questionable circumstances at the Harford County, Md., Detention Center, where it was ruled a suicide. His family continues to dispute this ruling.

From Palestine to the Philippines

A delegation from Malaya Baltimore gave a presentation on the new Anti-Terror Law that was just signed by Phillippine President Rodrigo Duterte. The law targets union leaders and the many mass organizations who have opposed the U.S.backed dictator. This law will also lead to mass incarceration in that country and create hundreds more political prisoners.

Then, a speech was given in solidarity with the Palestinian people, who continue to face killings and jailings at the hands of the fascist Israeli regime. That speaker called for the end of collusion with Israeli Defense Forces. The Baltimore City Police Department has been sending its officers to Israel to learn terroristic policing tactics, which are then used on the people of Baltimore.

Afterward, the march-caravan wound its way through parts of downtown Baltimore with vibrant chants as it returned to the Harriet Tubman Solidarity Center.

For updates on upcoming events, contact the Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly on Facebook or call (410) 218-4835.

Day of Rage demands: No annexation of Palestinian land!

July 1 was declared an International Day of Rage against Israel's latest attempt to annex Palestinian lands. The Israeli apartheid regime, backed by the Trump administration in the U.S., plans to annex its illegal settlements in the West Bank and Jordan Valley land that rightfully belongs to Palestinians. Not only is this decision illegal under international law, but it will displace thousands more Palestinians from their homes.

In Los Angeles, more than 200 cars with signs, banners and Palestinian flags drove slowly from the Westwood Federal Building to the Israeli Consulate. There, activists held a loud rally. They chanted and shouted down a small group of Zionist supporters who gathered nearby.

Drivers continued to circle the block around the consulate, honking their horns and slowing down traffic on one of the busiest boulevards in L.A.

The action was called by Al-Awda, the Palestine Right to Return Coalition and co-hosted by the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Code Pink, Labor for Palestine, the Answer Coalition, the Palestinian Youth Movement and others.

A rally held outside the Herbert R. O'Conor State Office Building in Baltimore demanded "No Israeli annexation! Free Palestine! End the deadly exchange!" The latter demand refers to the way that U.S. police agencies use the Israeli military to train cops in the brutal techniques used to suppress Palestinians fighting for their rights and self-determi-





nation. U.S. police come back and use these same tactics against Black and Brown people and protesters here.

"We're here today, without apology, to demand an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine," said Andre Powell of the Peoples Power Assembly. "The U.S. government gives billions of dollars each year to prop up the racist regime in Israel, while, in this country, people go without schools, hospitals, medical care and food."

"The Baltimore police train directly with the Israeli Defense Forces," said Miranda Etel, a young Jewish activist and a leader of Youth Against War and Racism. "So are thousands of cops from across the U.S. And we hear reports of Palestinians being repressed with the knee on the neck, the way George Floyd was killed by police officer Derek Chauvin in Minneapolis."

Along with YAWR and the PPA, the Malaya Movement DMV/Baltimore and the Socialist Unity Party co-sponsored the action.

One struggle for liberation!

Brooklyn, N.Y.'s Bay Ridge neighborhood saw one of the largest Day of Rage actions. Thousands flooded the streets in an area that is home to many Palestinians and other Arab people.

The protest was led by Within Our Lifetime-United For Palestine and organized by the NY4Palestine Coalition, which also includes Samidoun, Al-Awda, American Muslims for Palestine and several chapters of Students for Justice in Palestine. It explicitly linked the defense of Palestinian lives and land with the Blackled uprising against police terror here.

"There can be no Palestinian liberation without Black liberation!" declared Nerdeen Kiswani of WOL-UFP, who chaired the opening rally.

Speakers included Nefretti Larkin of the December 12 Movement; longtime prisoner rights activist Dequi Kioni Sadiki of the Jericho Movement; representatives of the Filipinx movement BAYAN-USA; the Red Nation, an organization of Indigenous revolutionaries; New York Boricua Resistance, representing the Puerto Rican independence struggle; Nodutdol, a Korean American organization fighting for reunification of the Korean peninsula; Bill Dores of Struggle-La Lucha; Suzanne Ross of the Interna-



tional Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal; and many more.

Recorded remarks by U.S. political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal gave the signal to march.

The lead banner declared: "NYPD = KKK = IDF, One Struggle for Liberation." Palestinians and supporters chanted, "Not just annexation, not just occupation, we want liberation, bring the whole thing down!" A small group of bigots from the racist "Jewish Defense League" fled the area as the crowd took over Brooklyn's Fifth Avenue.

The protest marched across Brooklyn for four hours, gathering support and cheers in that borough's diverse, multinational neighborhoods. Marchers chanted, "From Palestine to Mexico, all the walls have got to go!" and "No justice, no peace, no Israel, no police!" before ending at Barclays Center with a Dabke, the traditional Palestinian folk dance.

Two days later, on July 3, another large march was held across the river in North Bergen, N.J., organized by American Muslims for Palestine-N.J.

Greg Butterfield, Bill Dores and Scott Scheffer contributed to this report.

Cleveland City Council says: End U.S. blockade of Cuba

By Cheryl LaBash

On July 1, the City Council of Cleveland in the state of Ohio unanimously adopted a resolution calling for "an end to the U.S. economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba." The body, which represents 383,000 residents, urges the current administration to renew negotiations with the Cuban government. The vote was 14-0 with three council people absent, as published in The City Record on July 3.

This is the 14th such municipal resolution. Cleveland joins Richmond, Berkeley, Oakland and Sacramento, Calif.; Seattle; Helena, Mont.; Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn.; Detroit and Meridian Township, Mich.; Pittsburgh; Brookline, Mass.; and Hartford, Conn.

To confront the COVID-19 pandemic, city councils are now calling for medical collaboration with Cuba. On May 5, the Richmond City Council cited that the U.S. "has placed restrictions on access to Cuban goods and knowledge," and therefore it supports lifting the restrictions on the Cuban-developed medicine Interferon Alfa 2B Recombinant and medical collaboration with Cuba in the fight against COVID-19.

On June 16, the Berkeley City Coun-

cil went further, explicitly adopting the three goals of the Saving Lives Campaign. Those goals are:

- 1. Allowing U.S.-Cuba-Canada medical, clinical and scientific collaboration, including inviting Cuban medical brigades to provide direct medical assistance and/or to provide advice and guidance in treating COVID-19.
- 2. Incorporating Cuba's Interferon Alfa 2B Recombinant in clinical trials in the U.S., Canada and the World Health Organization, and for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to grant approval for Cuba's Interferon Alfa 2B Recombinant.
- 3. Ending U.S. economic and travel sanctions against Cuba, including attempts to stop all other countries from accepting Cuban medical brigades and assistance, and ending all ongoing measures that prevent Cuba from accessing and importing medical equipment and medicines to confront COVID-19.

Join Saving Lives Campaign

In articles about the devastation of the pandemic in Latin America, the corporate media studiously avoid



Cuban medical brigades to Medical brigades from Cuba assisting the fight against COVID-19 overseas for April 2020.

GRAPHIC: MINREX

mentioning how Cuba has tamed the virus and saved lives. Caring for 11.3 million people, Cuba has only suffered 86 deaths. But from the Bronx to Detroit, from Chicago to Miami, Oakland and South Central Los Angeles, the death tolls are rising. These hit Black, Indigenous and Latinx workers disproportionately harder.

More information is available at the Saving Lives Campaign website (tinyurl.com/yy8xezjk), including data on Interferon Alfa 2B Recombinant and how it has been used to save lives in China and Cuba.

Add your name to the list of endorsers. Ask your organization to sign on to the statement. Print it out and take it to your doctor. Have a friend who works in a hospital or health care facility? Ask them to sign on and take it to their union. Even while social distancing, there are many things we can do in the fight for "Saving Lives."

The U.S. government is using the pandemic as a weapon against Cuba and Venezuela. Washington uses unilateral sanctions and its domination of international trade in dollars to interrupt trade between sovereign countries. In real terms, these sanctions deny fuel, medicine, personal protective equipment, food and raw materials needed for producing materials that are needed by people.

In April, the Associated Press reported that a donated planeload of virus-fighting equipment — face masks and testing kits — was blocked when the airline refused to land in Cuba out of fear of possible fines for sanctions violations.

Not a week goes by without the administration in Washington leveling a new slanderous attack against Cuba, particularly aimed at Cuba's international medical soli-

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Global protests erupt in response to Philippines 'terror law'

By Bayani

On July 3, Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte signed into law what he calls the "Anti-Terrorism Act," now the Anti-Terrorism Law. Despite international criticism from human-rights watchdogs, legal professionals and grassroots organizations, the Anti-Terrorism Law will go into effect on July 18.

The Anti-Terrorism Law creates a Duterte-appointed council that subsumes the powers of the Philippines courts to designate who or what can be considered a "terrorist" or "terrorism." It also allows for people suspected of "terrorism" to be wiretapped and surveilled for 90 days, arrested without a warrant and imprisoned for 24 days. Punishments for those convicted include life imprisonment without parole.

Duterte and his government mouthpieces claim that the bill is necessary to stamp down "terrorism" influenced by the Islamic State. But the facts don't lie: Duterte has utilized the full force of the Philippines National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines, under the guise of his "War on Drugs," to gun down anyone he deems a dissenter.

To date, extrajudicial killings have claimed over 30,000 lives, an overwhelming number of them farmworkers, Indigenous people, unionists, legal professionals — the list goes on. This Anti-Terrorism Law is simply Duterte's way to make legal his fascist reign of terror.

But the broad masses of the Philippines and their allies around the world will not be cowed.

Wednesday, July 8 was declared a Global Day of Protest against the Anti-Terror Law. In the U.S., demonstrators hit the streets in New York; Baltimore; Washington, D.C.; Boston; Chicago; Portland, Ore.; Austin, Houston and Dallas, Texas; San Diego; Los Angeles; and San Francisco.

Baltimore's demonstration on July 8 was the very first street action called by Malaya Movement Baltimore. Speakers from Malaya Movement Baltimore, the Maryland Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines, the Baltimore Teachers Union, the Peoples Power Assembly, Youth Against War and Racism and the Socialist Unity Party broadly condemned Philippines President Duterte and his reign of terror and declared unwavering solidarity with the Filipino people.

On behalf of the Peoples Power Assembly, Andre Powell said, after reminding the crowd of martial law in the Philippines under Ferdinand Marcos, "History in the Philippines is repeating itself over and over again, and it could not do so without the money poured into it that the U.S. Congress passes and designates to go to the Philippines dictators."

Alec Summerfield, representing the Socialist Unity Party, made clear that no one is fooled by Duterte's latest move: "This is not an anti-terror law, as we all know. This is an anti- worker law, anti-farmer law, anti-union law, anti-student law and anti-legal worker law. ... This is

just another way for the U.S. to assert its agenda through its puppet fascist dictatorship in the Philippines."

PHOTOS: MICHELLE CLAIRE LORENTZEN

Even before the official passage of the law, the Duterte government in the Philippines has already cracked down on dissent. On June 26, the day the Anti-Terror bill passed through the Philippines House of Representatives, 20 activists of the LGBTQ organization Bahaghari were arrested for their protest in Metro Manila. They were released four days later.

Philippines solidarity organizations like the International Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines and the Malaya Movement have reached out to U.S. congressional representatives, asking them to condemn the passage of the Anti-Terrorism Law. Illinois Rep. Jan Schakowsky spearheaded a letter of condemnation alongside California Rep. Judy Chu, which was signed by over 50 other congressional representatives and sent to Jose Manuel Romualdez, the Philippines ambassador to the U.S.

In response, ironically, Duterte supporters have called on the U.S. to "stop meddling" in Philippines affairs.



El terrorismo contra Cuba es la política del estado de EE. UU.

Por Raúl Antonio Capote

Estados Unidos ha sido el principal organizador y patrocinador del terrorismo en el mundo, desde su surgimiento como potencia con aspiraciones de hegemonía universal.

En el transcurso de la historia contemporánea, esa nación creó, estructuró y proporcionó apoyo de todo tipo a grupos paramilitares y terroristas confesos alrededor del orbe. También brindó asistencia a numerosos gobiernos dictatoriales que usaron el terror como herramienta de represión contra sus pueblos.

La guerra terrorista desatada contra Cuba fue concebida como política de Estado. La variedad de acciones militares, económicas, biológicas, diplomáticas, sicológicas, propagandísticas, de espionaje, la ejecución de actos de sabotaje y los intentos de liquidar físicamente a los líderes del proceso revolucionario, forman parte de una estrategia oficial creada y ejecutada desde la Casa Blanca para derrotar a la Rev-

olución y detener la construcción del socialismo en la Isla.

Demasiadas son las evidencias que tantas veces se han repasado: el secuestro de aviones, que hasta 1959 no tenían precedentes en el mundo, fue un método ideado y utilizado precisamente por la cia en su programa de acciones terroristas a partir del triunfo de enero. Las cifras de 3 478 cubanos fallecidos y 2 099 incapacitados como víctimas de todos los planes violentos sobre la Mayor de las Antillas, muestran las graves consecuencias del flagelo.

Dos meses después de que el terrorista Alazo Baró disparara «a matar» contra la Embajada cubana en Washington, el silencio cómplice de la Casa Blanca sacó a la luz los engendros de un pasado aún cercano en el tiempo.

El espíritu que animó al mercenario y a sus titiriteros en Miami, nace de la política de tolerancia, complicidad e incentivación del odio que durante años permitió actuar con entera libertad a los Orlando Bosch, Posada Carriles y otros monstruos nacidos bajo la tutela del Gobierno.

Tanto la impunidad con que actúan los extremistas, como la reacción ausente de la administración de Donald Trump ante la gravedad de un asalto armado a una sede diplomática extranjera, responden silenciosamente la interrogante mayor: ¿Quién realmente patrocina al terrorismo?

Invariable, la respuesta de Cuba siempre tiene la misma altura, como estas que ofrece, a modo de lecciones, en medio de la crisis provocada por la covid-19, y al amparo ético del ideario martiano: «Aquellos donde se predique el odio, o la intolerancia, vénganse abajo en buen(a) hora: pero ¿templos? ahora se necesitan más que nunca, templos de amor y humanidad que desaten todo lo que en el hombre hay de generoso, y sujeten todo lo que en él, de crudo y vil».

Fuente: Granma



Los agujeros de bala empalan la columna y la estatua de José Martí fuera de la Embajada de Cuba en Washington, D.C.

Terrorism against Cuba is U.S. state policy

By Raúl Antonio Capote

The United States government has been the main organizer and sponsor of terrorism in the world since the country's emergence as a power with aspirations of universal hegemony.

Over the course of contemporary history, this country has created, structured and provided support to all kinds of self-proclaimed paramilitary and terrorist groups around the world, while providing assistance to dictatorial governments that used terror as a tool of repression against their people.

The terrorist war unleashed against Cuba was conceived as U.S. state policy. The countless military, economic, biological, diplomatic, psychological, propagandistic and espionage attacks, the sabotage and attempts to physically eliminate leaders of the revolutionary process,

are part of an official strategy developed and implemented by the White House to defeat the Cuban Revolution and end the construction of socialism on the island.

The overwhelming evidence has been reviewed so many times. The hijacking of airplanes, which before 1959 had no precedent in the world, was a method devised and used precisely by the CIA in its program of terrorist actions that began with the

triumph of the Cuban Revolution. The toll of 3,478 dead and 2,099 disabled Cubans, victims of this violent plan, are more than enough to make clear the serious consequences of these crimes.

Two months after the terrorist Alazo Baró shot "to kill" at the Cuban Embassy in Washington, the complicit silence of the U.S. government indicates that the story is to be continued.

The motivations that inspired the mercenary and his puppeteers in Miami are products of the policy of tolerance, complicity and encouragement of hatred that for years allowed the likes of Orlando Bosch, Posada Carriles and other criminals, tutored by the U.S. government, to act with complete freedom.

Both the impunity with which these extremists act, and the absence of a reaction on the part of the Trump administration to the seriousness of an armed assault on a foreign diplomatic headquarters, silently answer the basic question: Who really sponsors terrorism?

Invariably, Cuba takes the high road, responding by offering lessons, amidst the COVID-19 crisis, and looking to the ethical protection of Martí's ideas: "Those [places] where hate or intolerance are preached, fall down in good time: but temples? Now more than ever, temples of love and humanity are needed, to unleash all that is generous in man, and subdue all that is crude and vile in him."

Source: Granma



Cleveland City Council says:

End U.S. blockade of Cuba

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darity brigades, but also the Bolivarian Alliance for the People of Our America's cooperative relationship with Venezuela.

Now Cuba and Venezuela have been included on a new list of "foreign adversaries," issued by the U.S. Department of Energy and just published in the Federal Register, according to the Miami Herald.

The hostility from Washington and a few elected officials in Florida

doesn't represent the will of the people in the U.S. or around the world.

The blossoming of creative campaigns like the municipal resolutions noted in this article; the nomination of Cuba's Henry Reeve Brigade of doctors for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize; and a two-day International Concert for Cuba to be broadcast live on July 18–19 reflect the desire for peace, friendship and cooperation between people in the U.S. and Cuba.

On April 5 the Henry Reeve Brigade of health care workers was dispatched to Barbados. It will form a solid line of combat against COVID-19. With the addition of Barbados, 15 brigades have been sent to countries requesting help to confront the pandemic that is devastating the world. Cuba reaffirms its willingness to collaborate under the principle Fidel Castro taught us, that solidarity toward other peoples is our duty to humanity. — Granma

PHOTO: JOSÉ RAÚL RODRÍGUEZ ROBLEDA, GRANMA

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